IN SUMMARY

'Building Tenure' Ended
Joseph A. Fernandez, chancellor of the New York City schools, last week gained a tool that was denied his predecessors for 15 years: the right to transfer principals who are not performing up to par. **Page 5.**

Funding New Jersey Schools
New Jersey's new Governor last week said he would soon unveil a new school-aid formula that will direct more state money to poor school districts and rely less on property taxes. **Page 12.**

Reinvigorating School Reform
In a show of bipartisan cooperation, the Indiana legislature last week passed a $36.2-million education package that, state officials say, will help reinvigorate school-reform efforts in the state. **Page 13.**

Child-Care Compromise?
House Democrats last week were working out a compromise that could break the impasse on child-care legislation reached last year following a dispute over funding approaches. **Page 18.**

Census Suit Reopened?
New guidelines on adjustments to the 1990 census may prompt big-city leaders to reopen their lawsuit charging the Commerce Department with undercounting the poor and minorities. **Page 19.**

Teacher Bills Lauded
Educators came to Capitol Hill to praise two bills aimed at improving the recruitment and training of teachers, but disagreed over how much money should go to colleges and universities. **Page 19.**

Evaluating Special Education
The Education Department's special-education office has announced plans to spend up to $2.3 million to create a national center to measure the effectiveness of special education. **Page 20.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Unions, Corporations Join To Lobby For National Health-Care Reform

The American Federation of Teachers and a number of other labor unions have formed an unusual alliance with some of the nation's largest businesses in an effort aimed, in part, at bringing about some form of national health insurance.

The group, called the National Leadership Coalition for Health Care Reform, held its first meeting March 9. The 21 companies involved include American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the Du Pont Company, and the Marriott Corporation. The nine unions, in addition to the A.F.T., include the Communications Workers of America—for whom health-care costs were an issue in a major strike last year.

Rising health-care costs and the growing pool of Americans—especially children—who have no health insurance have been of increasing concern to several groups in recent years. The new coalition is significant, however, because it is the first attempt by large corporations and labor organizations to jointly formulate a possible solution.

"In the past, such plans have floundered for lack of cooperation between those who stand to benefit the most," said Gregory Humphrey, one of two A.F.T. representatives to the coalition.

The issue of rising health-care costs played a role in teacher strikes last fall in Sacramento, Calif.; Upper St. Clair, Pa.; East St. Louis, Ill.; and Great Falls, Mont. *(See Education Week, Sept. 29, 1989.)*

At its first meeting, participants said, the group set three goals for any possible solution to the issue—affordability, access, and quality. It also voted to include possible government solutions, such as national health insurance, in its deliberations on the subject.

Absent from the group is the National Education Association, which, like the A.F.T., has long advocated national health insurance. A spokesman for the N.E.A. said the union had not been invited to join.

A coalition spokesman has been reported as saying that the group's membership is still growing.

STATES

W.Va. High Court Will Not Hear Case Against Tieless Teacher

The West Virginia Supreme Court has declined to review a lower-court decision declaring unconstitutional a county school board's dress code for teachers.

The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by Bill Webb, a teacher who was fired by the Mason County Board of Education in December 1988 because he refused to wear a tie and dress pants to school. In his suit against the board, he charged that its dress code was not in effect when he signed his contract.

Mr. Webb signed his contract for the 1988-89 school year before Aug. 29, 1988, the date the school board began requiring male teachers to wear a tie and dress pants. In November of that year, the board changed the requirement to a recommendation.

In an opinion issued last October, County Circuit Court Judge Tod J. Kaufman agreed with Mr. Webb's argument. He further ruled that the county's dress code violated both the state and U.S. Constitutions.

The Mason County Board of Education appealed that decision to the state supreme court, which voted March 8 not to review the case.

Mr. Webb returned to his job, tieless, on March 8, despite the ongoing statewide teachers' strike.

The district currently has no dress code.

■ **Nearly half of all Minnesota schools built before 1940 have major health and safety defects,** according to a survey conducted by the state department of education.

Of the state's approximately 1,500 public schools, 572 were built before 1940. Nearly 400 of these schools responded to the survey.

Approximately 45 percent of the older schools reported such health and safety defects as rickety fire escapes, asbestos insulation, kindergarten and 1st-grade classrooms situated above ground level, and classrooms located too close to boiler rooms.

In addition, about one-quarter of the buildings have wooden superstructures and about one-third have open stairwells, the survey found. Both of these features are considered potentially dangerous.

The study, the department's first of school buildings, was presented to the House school-aid subcommittee March 5.

Psychologist Bettelheim Dies

Bruno Bettelheim, who survived the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps and went on to be a leading figure in American psychology, died last week at a nursing home in Silver Spring, Md. He was 86.

Police in Montgomery County, Md., labeled Mr. Bettelheim's death a suicide.

Bruno Bettelheim

Trained in psychoanalysis and philosophy, Mr. Bettelheim was widely known for his work in treating and educating emotionally disturbed children, especially autistic children, and in applying his conclusions to the rearing of nondisturbed children.

His outspoken opinions on child-rearing—which emphasized the importance of play, fantasy, and fairy tales, and scorned corporal punishment, competition, and achievement—won him international acclaim and his share of critics.

They also have influenced schools in this country, experts said last week.

"I think he was most effective in trying to get schools to consider the child's emotional development," said Jacqueline Sanders, director of the University of Chicago's Orthogenic School, a residential facility for emotionally disturbed children that Mr. Bettelheim headed for 29 years. "To get educators to understand the child from the child's point of view, and not as a shrunken adult. When one does that, one can engage the child in an appropriate way while teaching what adults know they need to learn."

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1903 to a family of assimilated Jews, Mr. Bettelheim received his doctorate from the University of Vienna in 1938. Following the Nazi invasion of Austria that year, he was interred and spent two years in the camps. Through the intervention of Herbert Lehman, the Governor of New York State, and Eleanor Roosevelt, he was released in 1939.

Emigrating to the United States, he joined the University of Chicago faculty. In 1944, he became director of the Orthogenic School.

A prolific author with wide-ranging interests, Mr. Bettelheim wrote a number of influential books, both scholarly and popular.

Perhaps his most popular book was *The Uses of Enchantment*, a 1976 examination of the power of fairy tales for children.

His most recent work was *A Good Enough Parent* (1987), a book Mr. Bettelheim described as the culmination of his life's work with parents and children. He often told audiences that children are innately good and that parents are "good enough." —G.B.

DISTRICTS

Boston Superintendent Leaves; City Funds Teachers Contract

Laval S. Wilson, superintendent of the Boston Public Schools for the past five years, last week agreed to a buyout of the 18 months remaining on his contract.

The school committee agreed to pay Mr. Wilson $240,000 for the salary and benefits he would have earned during his remaining tenure, and an additional $20,000 to cover his legal expenses, according to a school-district spokesman.

The superintendent and the school committee also informally agreed not to engage in any further verbal warfare or legal action against each other, according to the spokesman.

The committee unanimously chose Joseph McDonough, a retired Boston school administrator who has twice previously served as interim superintendent, to lead the school system until a permanent successor is found.

Also last week, the Boston City Council agreed to fund the first year of a reform-oriented teachers' contract, averting the possibility that teachers would go on strike this year.

The action gives teachers a 5 percent raise retroactive to last September, and allows the district to begin immediately to implement the school-based management components of the contract, the spokesman said.

■ **The board of the Los Angeles Unified School District last week agreed to pay $6.02 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the parents of 16 children who alleg-**

edly had been sexually molested by a teacher.

The agreement, which must be approved by the state superior court, provides compensation for children who claim to have been molested by a 3rd-grade teacher at the 68th Street School in 1985.

The former teacher, Terry E. Bartholome, was convicted in 1986 on 30 counts—including child abuse and molestation—and is currently serving a 49-year jail sentence, according to Richard K. Mason, the lawyer for the district.

The children's parents filed a $200-million lawsuit against the district in 1986, charging that school officials neglected to report suspected abuse by Mr. Bartholome to the authorities for up to a year after allegations were made.

If approved by the court, the settlement money will be paid out over the course of the students' lifetimes, and will be used to cover the costs of health and psychological care and postsecondary education, Mr. Mason said.

■ **Chancellor Joseph Fernandez of the New York City schools has denied a request by Cardinal John O'Connor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York to allow federally funded drug counselors to work in parochial schools.**

Instead, Mr. Fernandez said, he wants the counselors to help parochial-school students in neutral, off-campus sites. The counseling would be funded by $500,000 in federal drug-prevention money granted to the district to administer on behalf of Catholic schools.

Providing in-school services, Mr. Fernandez argued, would violate a 1985 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Aguilar* v. *Felton*, that prohibits public-school teachers from providing Chapter 1 instruction in parochial schools.

The cardinal, whose archidiocese includes Manhattan, Staten Island, the Bronx, and several counties north of the city, maintains that the counselors must provide on-site services in order to be effective.

Meanwhile, Mr. Fernandez and unions representing school employees have been negotiating the conditions under which school workers could be tested for drugs.

Mr. Fernandez has also said he wants applicants for school jobs to be tested for drugs.

Susan Amlung, a spokesman for the United Federation of Teachers, said the union, while not favoring drug tests, would not oppose them for job applicants.

School employees cannot now be required to undergo drug testing. Ms. Amlung and school officials said they agreed that current employees could be tested only when there is a "reasonable suspicion" that an employee had used drugs.

■ **Teachers working in the Avon Lake (Ohio) City Schools charged their district with engaging in unfair labor practices after they were locked out of schools for planning half-day strikes.**

The 168 members of the Avon Lake Education Association had planned to strike during the second half of every school day beginning March 1. The city board of education responded by locking them out and staffing the schools with substitute teachers.

The union members—who ended the standoff March 8 after accepting a pay increase of 12.5 percent over two years—filed a complaint with the state Employment Relations Board alleging that their right to strike was obstructed by the lockout.

■ **Nearly 30 percent of school libraries in Dallas have fewer books than required under state law,** an audit has revealed.

Fifty-six of the district's approximately 200 schools—about 28 percent—have fewer than 10 books per student, the minimum required by a 1984 law. Schools were to have been in compliance with the law by 1987.

School officials said the 49 elementary schools involved will have the minimum number of books by the end of the school year. The remaining seven high schools and middle schools, however, will not receive any additional allocations this year, an official said.

The book shortage stems in part from tight budgets in the district, the official said.

Across the district, the average ratio of books to students is approximately 11-to-1, according to a school official.

■ **A 17-year-old student and his 18-year-old friend have been charged with vandalizing a suburban-Washington high school last month, causing more than $250,000 in damages.**

The student, a senior at Richard Montgomery High school in Montgomery County, Md., has been charged as a juvenile with eight felonies stemming from the incident in late February. His friend, who dropped out of the school last year, has been charged as an adult with 10 felonies.

The pair allegedly broke into the school twice over a weekend, set fires, tried to cause an explosion by opening natural-gas valves in a chemistry lab, smashed computers and other machinery, broke windows, and demolished the school's television studio. Antisemitic graffiti also was found on some walls.

Prosecutors plan to ask the court for permission to prosecute the student as an adult.

A Different Kind of Spring Break

AP/Newsfinder

Meghan Hanrahan of St. Louis, a student at Quincy (Ill.) College, reads to 8-year-old Alicia Davis at Holy Angels School in Chicago. Ms. Hanrahan was one of eight college students who spent their spring break tutoring and teaching black pupils at the elementary school on the city's South Side earlier this month.

DIMENSIONS

Students and Drugs

Young Americans are very concerned about drug use, and a surprising number of them favor drug tests for high-school students, a recent national poll concludes.

The survey, conducted by Scholastic Inc. and Turner Educational Services, polled students from the 5th through 12th grades in schools that use Scholastic publications or subscribe to Turner's "CNN Newsroom" in-school news show. Of more than 180,000 responses to a 15-question multiple-choice survey, the researchers randomly selected 5,000 responses to tabulate.

The results show that, over all, nearly 44 percent of students favored the use of regular drug testing for high-school students, although the percentage of those favoring it decreased with age.

In other findings, one-third of the students polled said it was easy to buy drugs at their school, with 49 percent of 11th- and 12th-graders voicing that opinion. Half the students reported having drug-education programs in their schools, but younger students were twice as positive as older ones as to their effectiveness.

More than half the students at all age levels said ads for cigarettes and alcohol encouraged young people to use them.

Do you think high-school students should be regularly tested for drug use?

	Grade Level				All Grades*
	5,6	7,8	9,10	11,12	
Yes	65.5%	49.2%	35.0%	32.2%	43.9%
No	11.1	20.6	38.4	42.3	29.6
No Opinion	21.7	29.5	26.3	24.3	25.6
Not Answered	1.7	0.7	0.3	1.2	0.9

*Based on 5,000 responses.

UPDATE

■ **A Texas judge has ordered that school-board elections in the Del Valle school district be postponed until after he decides a lawsuit charging that the district's at-large election system dilutes the voting strength of minorities.**

The case is the first to use Texas' Equal Rights Amendment to challenge a school-board election system. *(See Education Week, Jan. 31, 1990.)*

The plaintiffs charge that the district's minority population is too dispersed to make a system of one-member districts viable. Instead, they ask for the creation of two districts with three representatives each. The board's seventh member would continue to be elected at-large.

School officials said that elections for two of the board's seats that were scheduled to be held in May could be rescheduled for August.

■ **A federal judge has approved new student-assignment plans in a desegregation case involving the Little Rock, Ark., public schools and two surrounding districts.** *(See Education Week, Jan. 24, 1990.)*

Unlike other recent plans adopted by Little Rock, the new plan will not require the wholesale reassignment of students next year. Instead, it relies on magnet schools and other incentives to encourage parents to enroll their children in integrated schools.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Henry Woods said the plan is "practical and promising, [but] by constitutional standards, it is minimal."

The judge also expressed his frustration with the districts' desegregation efforts: "I add this as a word of caution to the districts lest they be tempted to reduce the plan in any way: Desegregation is not an optional add-on program."

■ **The state agency that allocates money for school construction has denied the Los Angeles school board's request for $80 million to build a school on the site of the historic Ambassador Hotel.**

School officials requested the money to buy part of the property on Wilshire Boulevard to build a high school for 4,000 students who currently are bused to other neighborhoods. *(See Education Week, Sept. 6, 1989.)*

The district plans to acquire the property through eminent domain. But developers have also staked claims to the 23-acre plot.

The state allocation board had agreed to set aside $50 million for the district, but this month urged Los Angeles officials to return with a new request within 60 days after negotiating with developers interested in the site.

The real-estate mogul Donald Trump has purchased a portion of the property, and has announced plans for a commercial and residential development.

■ **The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has revised the charges against Raymond Buckey,** the McMartin Preschool employee who will be retried later this month on child-molestation charges.

In January, a jury acquitted Mr. Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 counts of child molestation and conspiracy. But the jury failed to reach a verdict on 13 counts against Mr. Buckey. *(See Education Week, Jan. 24, 1990.)*

Mr. Buckey now faces eight counts of molestation, and will go before a new judge and jury in the trial, scheduled to begin March 27. Three former students at the Manhattan Beach, Calif., preschool, who were involved in the eight charges, are expected to testify.

PEOPLE

■ **Gary H. Quehl** has resigned as president of the Washington-based Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Mr. Quehl has headed the organization, which includes college and private-school officials involved in institutional advancement, since 1986. Previously, he served as president of the Council of Independent Colleges for 12 years.

Following his departure, slated for June 30, Mr. Quehl plans to move to California.

■ Former Virginia Secretary of Education **John T. Casteen 3rd** has been appointed president of the University of Virginia, his alma mater.

Mr. Casteen, 46, has been president of the University of Connecticut since 1985. He served as education secretary in the Old Dominion from 1982 to 1985.

He begins his new job Aug. 1.

This Week's Forum: Page 24

EDUCATION WEEK

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Voucher System For 1,000 Pupils Adopted in Wis.

Low-Income Students In Milwaukee Targeted

By William Snider

Proponents of private-school choice plans won a major victory late last week when the Wisconsin legislature approved a bill that will give almost 1,000 Milwaukee public-school students the option of attending nonsectarian private schools at state expense.

The measure differs from other voucher-type proposals in that it is specifically aimed at low-income children who are currently enrolled in public schools or have dropped out.

"The state is directly helping families who have drive, who have high expectations, but who don't have money, to vote with their feet," said state Representative Annette Williams, the chief sponsor of the bill.

"We're now going to show that our children can be educated successfully for less than half the money that the Milwaukee schools use to miseducate our students," added Ms. Williams, who also has sponsored legislation, thus far unsuccessful, to create a new district in Milwaukee's inner city that would be mostly black.

Gov. Tommy Thompson has indicated that he will sign the private-school choice measure, according to his aides.

"This is a very historic day for the poor and for civil rights," said John E. Coons, professor of law at the University of California Berkeley and a proponent of vouchers.

"People who have been pretty much entombed in segregated public schools will have a chance to get their civil rights vindicated in the private sector," he said.

The measure passed despite stiff opposition from the state's teacher organizations and Milwaukee public-school officials, who

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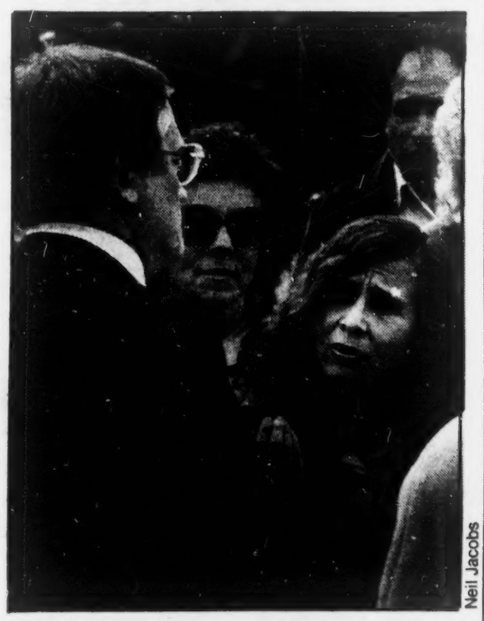
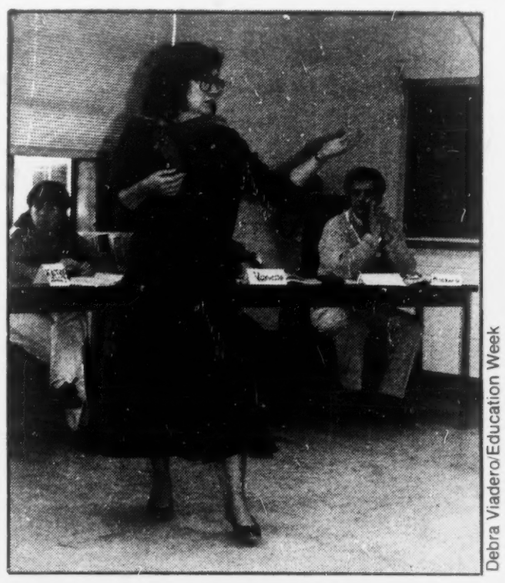


Neil Jacobs

TEACHER PAY—A New Mexico teacher debates with a state senator who took part in special session on education. Story on page 12.

Teacher Educators Turn to Case-Study Method

Stories Give Students a 'Chunk of Reality'



Debra Viadero/Education Week

Rita Silverman uses the case-study method in her class at Pace University.

By Debra Viadero

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—For nearly three hours every Monday evening, the future teachers in Rita Silverman's educational-psychology class here get what is referred to in business-school shorthand as a "concrete chunk of reality."

That exposure comes to these Pace University students in the form of "case studies"—complex, richly detailed stories about real problems faced by real teachers.

The stories spur the students to debate such knotty questions as how to draw the line between being a friend to a student and being a teacher, how to handle a student who has been physically abused at home, and how to discourage a student's unhealthy dependence on a teacher.

The students argue. They defend their positions with psychological theory. They come away with more questions.

"It's like practice teaching without actually going into the classroom," said one student, Pam Liebson.

Long established as a pedagogical approach in schools of law and business, the case-study method is increasingly being viewed as an equally powerful tool for training teachers. Beyond its usefulness for injecting reality into an "ivory tower" setting, the technique is seen as a way to make abstract theory come alive for prospective teachers and help them practice the critical-thinking skills needed to deal with the complex problems they will face

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Local Fights Over Superintendencies Are Seen Rekindling Racial Tensions

By William Snider

In recent weeks, white school-board members in at least five communities have been accused of racial bias after voting on issues affecting their superintendent's contract.

Protests in three of the districts—Boston; Selma, Ala.; and St. Helena, La.—were touched off when white-controlled boards voted to dismiss black superintendents.

In Syracuse, N.Y., the school board was forced by community protests to rescind its decision not to increase the salary of its superintendent, who is black.

And in Prince George's County, Md., a white superintendent backed out of a 10-year, multimillion-dollar contract extension after black activists balked at the arrangement—and questioned his commitment and accomplishments.

Similar though less publicized tensions have emerged elsewhere this year—and at a rate that has some experts voicing concern. Just last week, for instance, more than 200 students boycotted classes in Durant, Miss., demanding, among other things, that the district's white superintendent resign.

In interviews, more than 30 national experts asked to assess the meaning of the apparent surge in racially tinged superintendency disputes agreed that, while the number of such incidents is unusually high this year, the issues they raise are not new.

Among them, they said, are the fact that few blacks ever get the chance to lead a school system; that those who do must tackle some of education's most severe academic and financial problems and may be held to unrealistic expectations; and that community perceptions of a need for black leadership in majority-black school systems has

Continued on Page 8

Soviet Principal Visits a School in Mass. To Become Student of Democratic Process

By Robert Rothman

BROOKLINE, MASS.—As his country's legislature this month took the historic step of electing the Soviet Union's first Western-style president, Alexander M. Bannov was half a world away, observing a somewhat less august—though no less committed—deliberative body.

In what appears to be the first exchange of its kind, Mr. Bannov, the principal of School No. 130 in Novosibirsk, Siberia, has spent the past month here at Brookline High School, which operates under an unusual system allowing teachers and students broad authority to decide school policies.

Last week, for example, the school's legislature—a 34-member panel composed of equal numbers of students and teachers—debated a number of controversial measures, including whether to fly a flag honoring those missing in action in Vietnam and whether to make condoms available in school.

For Mr. Bannov, who three years ago instituted a similar system in his school, the visit provided an opportunity for him to compare notes with his American counterparts. Such information can be useful, he said, as democracy spreads in the Soviet Union, and more and more schools there adopt forms of democratic decisionmaking.

"Now, in our country, we are trying to change a lot," he said. "We should rely on

Continued on Page 10

Educators Consider The Census' Effects On State Legislation

By Michael Newman

A single day next week could go a long way toward framing the debate over education policy in the states for the rest of the decade.

Census Day, when questionnaires mailed to the nation's 106 million households are due back to the U.S. Census Bureau, is April 1.

The 1990 Census will undoubtedly have an important effect on federal education policy, observers say, as reapportionment and redistricting shift the balance of power within the U.S. House of Representatives and new population counts channel formula-driven funding to different areas.

But the most lasting impact of the nationwide population count, some education analysts said last week, may be its role in reshaping state legislatures to accord with a decade of demographic shifts.

A major consequence of the anticipated changes in the legislatures, warned John Myers, education-program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures, could be to impede efforts to equalize educational spending within the states.

"It seems to me that the shift [in legisla-

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Also in the news

5 **Getting Off the Track**
A report to be released this week calls for an end to ability-grouping in Boston's schools.

15 **Raising the Ante**
House Democrats plan to offer a substitute to President Bush's education bill.

IN SUMMARY

Nonpartisans Need Not Apply
School-board members in six Florida counties could be forced to run for re-election this fall as a result of a state supreme-court ruling barring nonpartisan school-board elections. **Page 4.**

Enrollment Figures in Dispute
Continuing confusion over how many students are enrolled in District of Columbia schools played a part in the city council's decision to slash a proposed budget increase for next year. **Page 5.**

Children of War
Children from war-torn areas across the world are touring U.S. schools hoping to give students here a broader perspective in their struggle against violence and racial hatred. **Page 10.**

Striking Teachers Return
West Virginia teachers were back at work last week after legislative leaders pledged to develop a comprehensive plan for funding education and to adopt it during a special session. **Page 11.**

Texas Reform Advances
Seemingly ignoring the governor's threat to veto the bill, the Texas Senate last week overwhelmingly approved a $5-billion plan to reform the state's school-finance system. **Page 11.**

A Dropout Expert
The Secretary of Education's adviser on dropout prevention is not only a teacher and administrator who has worked extensively with dropouts—he is a former dropout himself. **Page 15.**

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FORUM

A Roadmap for Restructuring Schools
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ACROSS THE NATION

STATES

Under Federal Threat, Mississippi Moves To Certify Student Residency

Officials in every Mississippi school district will be required to verify that all of their students actually live within district boundaries, under a new policy adopted this month by the state board of education.

The policy comes in response to a July 1989 warning from the U.S. Justice Department that if the board did not create a system to monitor home addresses of its 500,000 students, the federal government would step in.

The Justice Department last year was helping four districts clear up disputed residency violations when it discovered widespread abuse of residency requirements.

One common practice the investigators found was "sham guardianships," in which parents would select a school for their child outside their district and then persuade a friend or relative to obtain guardianship papers from a chancery court. The child would continue to live with his or her parents, but would attend school in the guardian's district. The Justice Department believes this practice is used to frustrate desegregation efforts.

Under the new policy, guardians will need to present a certified court copy of a petition for guardianship if the case is pending, or a final court decree if guardianship has been granted.

■ **An Arizona school district could lose its state funding if the state board of education confirms allegations that the district engaged in questionable financial practices.**

If the board accepts the allegations made in a report by the state Auditor General's Office, the Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District stands to lose nearly $1 million in state aid—about one-third of its total budget.

According to the state audit, the district did not maintain adequate financial records, had questionable expenses, and did not meet state bidding requirements.

State officials said the board has never before reviewed such a serious case of financial irregularities and has never withheld funding from a school district.

■ **The Georgia Board of Education has voted to reverse its decision of last year banning spring football practice.**

However, a public hearing, scheduled for this week, is required for the vote to become policy. The issue will probably be discussed again at the board's regularly scheduled meeting in April, according to a spokesman.

The board had voted 5 to 4 last March to ban the spring practice, citing the time it took away from academic pursuits, which under the state's "no-pass, no-play" law are to be emphasized over athletics.

This month, the board voted 7 to 2 to allow spring practice to be held, under new rules that limit its duration to 10 consecutive days in May. The practice also must not interfere with the schedules of spring sports or with final exams..

DISTRICTS

N.C. Jury Awards $450,000 To Fired First-Year Teacher

A first-year teacher in North Carolina whose contract was not renewed has been awarded $454,910 in damages by a Forsyth County jury that found she was wrongfully dismissed from her job.

Susan D. Spry sued the Winston-Salem-Forsyth County Board of Education in June 1988, charging she had been fired for "personal" reasons, in violation of state law. School officials contended she had been dismissed for poor performance.

The amount of damages awarded in the case is highly unusual and likely will influence North Carolina school boards as they consider whether to rehire new teachers, said William Pfefferkorn, the lawyer for the Forsyth Association of Classroom Teachers, which backed Ms. Spry's suit.

The decision, which has been appealed, is not expected to lead to a precedent that would change the state's teacher-tenure laws, however.

Under North Carolina law, teachers are given one-year contracts for the first three years of their employment. School boards are required to give them a reason if their contracts are not renewed, and are not permitted to make such decisions on the basis of personal, political, or arbitrary considerations. The burden of proving wrongful dismissal rests with the teacher during the first three years.

After the fourth year, teachers are given tenure, and the burden of proof in firing them rests with the school boards.

■ **A private group in Milwaukee has outlined an ambitious plan to make postsecondary education accessible to every student in the city who wants to pursue it.**

In "The Milwaukee Challenge," a report

'Riding for Reading'

Like many recent college graduates, Seth and James Levy have decided to take a cross-country trip to see a bit of America. The Levys have more than sightseeing in mind, however: they want to inculcate in students a love of reading and creative writing.

Last September, the brothers set out from Rockport, Maine, on a cross-country "Ride for Reading" bicycle trip in an effort to inspire junior-high students to read, write, and create their own stories.

The Levys, who are scheduled to finish their trek in San Francisco by the end of May, are the core of "Streetside Stories," a nonprofit organization they founded to combat "aliteracy"—a disinterest in reading—and the growing indifference they see to regional culture and lore.

Seth, a 1986 graduate of Georgetown University, conceived the bike ride as a way to draw attention to the importance of inspiring young people to read.

And when James graduated from Wesleyan University in 1988, he joined in developing the Washington-based project. Last June, both brothers quit their part-time jobs to work exclusively on the "Ride for Reading."

The Levys ride about 250 miles a week. This month, they are visiting schools in Texas and New Mexico. At each stop, they conduct student workshops and storytelling sessions to demonstrate that reading can be adventurous and that stories are composed by real people who draw on their experiences.

The biking element, says Seth, is more than just a gimmick. Stories from the road provide a natural introduction to a workshop. More importantly, he notes, a long bicycle trip demonstrates a commitment to an activity that, like writing, requires persistence.

The brothers are also developing a network of students to write stories about their region and exchange them with students at schools elsewhere.

The response to the project has been positive from teachers, librarians, and literacy groups they have met along the way, says Seth. But most rewarding, he adds, has been the students' response.

"At the end of the workshops," says Seth, "the kids say they realize that writing is not such a hard thing after all and they understand why it is a worthwhile endeavor." —J.W.

Streetside Stories

Brothers Seth and James Levy, far left and left, lead students in an exercise in which each participant adds a word to a story as a ball is passed around the circle.

released last month, the Greater Milwaukee Trust notes that only slightly more than one-third of the city's graduating seniors leave school with the grades or proper coursework for college or technical school.

The report calls for the creation of a public-private trust fund to provide scholarships or forgivable loans to any college-eligible minority or disadvantaged student in need of assistance.

It also asks the city's public schools to take steps to ensure that those who want to go on to college or technical school are taking the kinds of courses they need and achieving adequate grades.

In addition, it calls for the creation of an "information council" to promote postsecondary study in the community and provide information on higher-education programs and financial assistance to families throughout the city.

The report was produced by the group's scholarship committee, which includes state and local educators, business people, policymakers, and community groups.

■ **The Knox County, Tenn., school system may not use state pension money to offset the cost of providing pensions to former Knoxville teachers who are now employees of the county school system,** the state supreme court has ruled.

The Knoxville and Knox County school systems merged in July 1987. Teachers who had taught in Knoxville participate in a state teacher-retirement plan and also are covered by a city-funded plan.

The high court ruled that the state annuity paid to teachers vested in the Knoxville city pension plan must continue to be sent directly to teachers, rather than be redirected to the county as reimbursement for its contributions to the city plan.

The Knox County Education Association views the decision as a "decisive win" for teachers, because it preserves their benefits in cases of school-district mergers, which are becoming common throughout the state as a cost-saving measure, a spokesman for the union said.

■ **A group of parents in Orange County, Fla., has filed a suit seeking to block the school district's plan to implement a year-round schedule at an elementary school.**

The parents contend that the county school board lacks the power under state law to start up the pilot program, scheduled to begin July 23 to relieve crowding at Palm Lake Elementary School. The school now has 400 more students than it was built to accommodate, a school spokesman said.

The lawsuit, filed in circuit court, seeks a temporary restraining order and a permanent injunction to prevent the program from being carried out at any county school.

Lawyers for the school board said they consider the suit to have no merit.

■ **A federal appeals court has ordered a district court to hold a hearing on the Bryan County, Ga., school district's decision to bar a mentally and physically handicapped 15-year-old carrier of the hepatitis-B virus from attending school.**

A panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit said that a magistrate had ruled properly during a preliminary hearing in deciding that the chance of the boy's infecting others was slight and that the school system had discriminated against the boy.

The case began in January 1988, when the parents of the boy, identified only as Jeffrey S., sued to have their son reinstated in the schools. At the preliminary hearing, the magistrate issued an injunction to keep the boy in school. That injunction, however, was canceled after the school system filed an objection with the district court. The appeals-court panel also ordered the district court to conduct its own review of the facts.

DIMENSIONS

Baby Boomers' Education

The 1990 Census, which begins this week, will reveal that Americans ages 35 to 44 are the most-educated generation ever, according to a projection by *American Demographics* magazine.

Writing in the January issue of the monthly, Judith Waldrop and Thomas Exter draw on published and unpublished data from the U.S. Census Bureau to predict what the upcoming census will show.

They conclude the census will find that among the leading edge of the baby boomers—those born between 1946 and 1955—25 percent have completed at least four years of college. Men ages 25 to 34, however, are less likely to have completed four years of college, perhaps because of the rising cost of education, they conclude.

Over all, one in five Americans has completed four years of college, according to their analysis, up from one in six 10 years ago. Nearly 19 percent have at least a bachelor's degree, they say.

The authors also predict the census will show that the education gap between men and women is narrowing; while older men are much more likely to have college degrees than older women, they say, the difference in the 25-to-34 age group is negligible.

Educational Attainment of Adults Age 25 or Older

	1990			1980	
	High school graduates %	College graduates %	Completed 4 or more years of college* %	High school graduates %	Completed 4 or more years of college %
Men	**77.7**	**21.9**	**23.9**	**67.7**	**20.3**
25 to 34	86.5	21.3	24.5	84.8	26.5
35 to 44	87.1	28.3	30.8	77.3	24.5
45 to 54	79.1	24.6	25.5	65.8	19.8
55 to 64	68.1	18.9	20.7	56.3	14.3
65 and older	54.6	13.4	13.6	37.5	10.0
Women	**76.9**	**15.6**	**17.0**	**66.2**	**12.9**
25 to 34	87.8	20.5	23.6	84.1	20.4
35 to 44	86.6	20.6	22.5	76.4	14.9
45 to 54	79.2	14.9	15.4	66.7	10.5
55 to 64	70.2	10.1	11.1	57.6	8.0
65 and older	55.2	7.9	8.0	40.1	7.2
All adults	**77.3**	**18.6**	**20.3**	**66.9**	**16.4**

* Data in this column are estimates by *American Demographics Magazine.*

Source: Except for column noted above, published and unpublished data by the U.S. Census Bureau

UPDATE

■ **A group of black parents opposed to mandatory busing has filed papers in federal court seeking to intervene in the Dekalb County, Ga., desegregation lawsuit and asking to be allowed to propose alternative remedies.**

The school district was told last October by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit that it may be required to institute mandatory busing to satisfy its constitutional obligation to dismantle a segregated school system. *(See Education Week, Oct. 25, 1989.)*

Last month, the school system appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The community is currently embroiled in a debate over what desegregation methods to use in the event the High Court denies the appeal.

The district has proposed opening eight new magnet schools next fall, but the original black plaintiffs in the suit have indicated that voluntary integration measures may not be sufficient to desegregate the system.

The 18 black parents seeking to intervene in the suit charge that their interests are not being represented by the lawyer for the original plaintiffs, because he is more concerned with racial mixing and student transportation than with improving the quality of the district's schools.

■ **The Detroit school district has dropped a merit-pay proposal for principals in schools that join the Detroit Compact,** a partnership between schools and the business community.

The decision is expected to clear the way for schools to join the reform effort, which began last fall.

The Organization of School Administrators and Supervisors, the city's principals' union, had advised its members against volunteering for the project because some of its provisions could violate their contract. *(See Education Week, March 7, 1990.)*

John W. Porter, the district's general superintendent, had proposed giving 25 percent pay raises to principals of schools that volunteered for increased school-based management under the plan. In return, he requested the authority to remove principals if their schools failed to meet specified goals within three years.

Mr. Porter said he would continue to seek merit pay and new evaluation procedures for principals in schools outside the compact.

■ **The Floyd County, Ky., school district has asked the state board of education to scale down the oversight and management of the district** that the board implemented last year under the state's academic-bankruptcy law.

The board is scheduled to consider the request at its regular meeting in May.

Last year, districts in Floyd and Whitley counties were placed in "phase three" of the academic-bankruptcy plan when they failed to meet academic-progress targets and were in financial trouble. *(See Education Week, Jan. 18, 1989.)*

The law establishes four phases of assistance and intervention, and Floyd County has asked to be moved back to "phase two." In the second phase, districts are not considered to be under state control, but are recognized as troubled and receive technical assistance.

Floyd County officials contend they have taken steps—including the adoption of new school-board policies, administrative procedures, and curriculum guidelines—to correct their problems, and that their status should be downgraded.

A circuit court ruled late last year that the Whitley County school district should be moved back to "phase two" because the district had not been given enough technical assistance before the state intervened.

The state board is still considering whether to appeal that ruling, according to an education-department spokesman.

Delaying that decision is the current reform bill being considered by the legislature that would basically gut the academic-deficiency law in favor of a new system of rewards and sanctions for districts based on performance.

■ **Graduates of nonpublic high schools in Louisiana will not be required to take an exit examination like their counterparts in public schools,** the state board of elementary and secondary education has decided.

Nonpublic schools will be allowed to issue their own diplomas, but may not issue "state" diplomas unless they administer the state exit test.

The board unanimously approved the policy last month, following nearly a year of controversy over the test. The board voted last year to require the test for nonpublic schools that accept free textbooks and other forms of state aid. *(See Education Week, May 3, 1989.)*

Under lobbying from the state's Roman Catholic and other private schools, however, the legislature passed measures to nullify the board's requirement. After Gov. Buddy Roemer vetoed the bills, a compromise was struck that delayed the test for nonpublic-school students for one year. The board's action supersedes that compromise.

Some state-board members have indicated that they will continue to study some form of exit test for nonpublic-school students.

PEOPLE

■ Now that the baseball labor dispute is over, the **Milwaukee Brewers** are anxious to avoid a dispute of another kind.

Acting on complaints from school districts statewide about opening-day truancy in past years, the team is working to discourage students from cutting class for the afternoon home opener on April 10. As an inducement, the team is offering students from across Wisconsin free admission to a Sunday-afternoon game April 22.

■ **Pearl Martin**, who taught in one-room schoolhouses in rural Missouri in the early 1900's, had a reputation as a tough taskmaster. But when her will was read recently, there was evidence that she had a soft spot for her tiny home district: She left a bequest of $500,000 for its library.

Ms. Martin died last month at age 97 and amazed school officials by leaving the vast sum to the Bronaugh R-7 school district and its 260 students.

School officials plan to use the bequest to increase the 7,500-volume library and buy audiovisual materials.

Clarification

A story in the March 21 issue incompletely identified one of the people quoted. Marian Hinds is president of the Reading Reform Foundation, a group based in Tacoma, Wash., that promotes phonics instruction.